

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A polymeric composition comprising:
 - (a) a first ethylene polymer;
 - (b) a second ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.95 grams/cubic centimeter and being modified with an unsaturated aliphatic diacid anhydride;
 - (c) a flame retardant; and
 - (d) an ultra high molecular weight polysiloxane.
2. (Original) The polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the first ethylene polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene homopolymers, ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymers, ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymers, and ethylene/vinyl silane copolymers.
3. (Original) The polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the first ethylene polymer is selected from the group consisting of
 - (i) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.92 grams/cubic-centimeter, a peak DSC melting point above about 90 degrees Celsius, and a polydispersity index ("Mw/Mn") greater than about 3;
 - (ii) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.90 grams/cubic-centimeter and a polydispersity index less than about 3; and
 - (iii) mixtures of (i) and (ii).
4. (Original) The polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the second ethylene polymer being modified via grafting or copolymerization.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the flame retardant being a metal hydrate.
7. (Original) The polymeric composition of Claim 6 wherein the metal hydrate is selected from the group consisting of aluminum trihydroxide and magnesium dihydroxide.

Claims 8-10 (Canceled)

11. (Original) A polymeric composition comprising:
 - (a) a first ethylene polymer selected from the group consisting of

- (i) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.92 grams/cubic-centimeter, a peak DSC melting point above about 90 degrees Celsius, and a polydispersity index ("Mw/Mn") greater than about 3;
- (ii) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.90 grams/cubic-centimeter and a polydispersity index less than about 3; and
- (iii) mixtures of (i) and (ii);

- (b) a second ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.95 grams/cubic centimeter and being modified with an unsaturated aliphatic diacid anhydride;
- (c) a metal hydrate is selected from the group consisting of aluminum trihydroxide and magnesium dihydroxide; and
- (d) an ultra high molecular weight polydimethylsiloxane, wherein the composition having an LOI of at least about 37.

12. (Original) A cable comprising one or more electrical conductors or communication media, or a core of two or more electrical conductors or communication media, each electrical conductor, communication medium, or core being surrounded by a flame retardant composition comprising:

- (a) a first ethylene polymer;
- (b) a second ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.95 grams/cubic centimeter and being modified with an unsaturated aliphatic diacid anhydride;
- (c) a flame retardant; and
- (d) an ultra high molecular weight polysiloxane.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The cable of Claim 12 wherein the first ethylene polymer is selected from the group consisting of

- (i) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.92 grams/cubic-centimeter, a peak DSC melting point above about 90 degrees Celsius, and a polydispersity index ("Mw/Mn") greater than about 3;
- (ii) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.90 grams/cubic-centimeter and a polydispersity index less than about 3; and
- (iii) mixtures of (i) and (ii).

15-21 (Canceled)

22. (Original) An article of manufacture made from or containing a flame retardant composition comprising:

- (a) a first ethylene polymer;
- (b) a second ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.95 grams/cubic centimeter and being modified with an unsaturated aliphatic diacid anhydride;
- (c) a flame retardant; and
- (d) an ultra high molecular weight polysiloxane.

23. (Original) The article of Claim 22 wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of extended or thermoformed sheets, injection-molded articles, coated fabrics, construction materials, and automotive materials.